

## **YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK COMPENDIUM AMENDMENT**

### **Authority**

Under the provisions of 16 U.S.C., Section 3, and Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, the following Superintendents Orders are appended to existing Superintendent's Orders (compendium) for Yellowstone National Park. Unless otherwise noted, these orders apply in addition to the regulations contained in Parts 1-7 of Title 36 CFR and will remain in effect until amended.

### **Justification**

In accordance with 36 CFR Section 1.5, the following emergency requirements are being instituted immediately. These requirements are necessary to protect visitor and employee health and safety and to protect park resources, including wildlife, air-quality, and natural soundscapes. These restrictions are being implemented in compliance with a February 10, 2004, U.S. District Court order, which temporarily restrains the National Park Service from enforcing the January 22, 2001, regulations phasing-out the use of snowmobiles in the park. The February 10, 2004, court order requires the National Park Service to promulgate temporary rules for the 2004 snowmobile season that are fair and equitable to all parties. Until such rules are promulgated, the following emergency restrictions are necessary to protect park resources and provide for employee and visitor health and safety. These restrictions are in place temporarily and could be further adjusted by the Superintendent to protect park resources, provide for public enjoyment of the park, protect employee and visitor health and safety, or other reasons identified in 36 CFR 1.5(a).

### **ADDENDUM TO SECTION 7.13 SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

#### **(l) Snowmobiling**

- Snowmobile and snowcoaches must be operated only upon designated oversnow routes established within the park. The following oversnow routes are so designated for snowmobile and snowcoach use:
  - (i) The Grand Loop Road from its junction with Terrace Springs Drive to Norris Junction.
  - (ii) Norris Junction to Canyon Junction.
  - (iii) The Grand Loop Road from Norris Junction to Madison Junction.
  - (iv) The West Entrance Road from the park boundary at West Yellowstone to Madison Junction.
  - (v) The Grand Loop Road from Madison Junction to West Thumb.
  - (vi) The South Entrance Road from the South Entrance to West Thumb.
  - (vii) The Grand Loop Road from West Thumb to its junction with the East Entrance Road.
  - (viii) The East Entrance Road from the East Entrance to its junction with the Grand Loop Road.
  - (ix) The Grand Loop Road from its junction with the East Entrance Road to Canyon Junction.
  - (x) The South Canyon Rim Drive.
  - (xi) Lake Butte Road.

(xii) In the developed areas of Madison Junction, Old Faithful, Grant Village, Lake, Fishing Bridge, Canyon, Indian Creek, and Norris.

(xiii) The Superintendent may open or close these routes, or portions thereof, for snowmobile travel after taking into consideration the location of wintering wildlife, appropriate snow cover, public safety, and other factors. Notice of such opening or closing shall be provided by one or more of the methods listed in § 1.7(a) of this chapter.

- Authorized snowcoaches may be operated on the following additional oversnow routes:
  - (i) Firehole Canyon Drive.
  - (ii) Fountain Flat Road.
  - (iii) Virginia Cascades Drive.
  - (iv) North Canyon Rim Drive.
  - (v) Riverside Drive.
  - (vi) That portion of the Grand Loop Road from Canyon Junction to Washburn Hot Springs overlook.
- Snowmobiles and snowcoaches must be operated in accordance with a concession contract. The concession contract's operating plans will identify that the increase of snowmobiles in each contract allowed by this compendium amendment will be restricted to snowmobiles that meet National Park Service Best Available Technology Requirements. The operating plan will also specify other conditions under which snowmobiles must be operated.
- Best Available Technology requirements are defined as follows: For air emissions, no snowmobile may produce emissions greater than 15 g/kW-hr for hydrocarbons or greater than 120 g/kW-hr for carbon monoxide, using measured emissions levels (official emission results with no deterioration factors applied). For sound emissions, snowmobiles must operate at or below 73 dB(A) as measured at full throttle according to Society of Automotive Engineers J192 test procedures (revised 1985). Snowmobiles may be tested at any barometric pressure equal to or above 23.4 inches Hg uncorrected. The Superintendent will approve snowmobile makes, models, and year of manufacture that meet those requirements.
- Snowmobiles allowed to enter the park each day will be limited to a specific number per entrance. The daily entry limits are listed in the following table:

<b>Park Entrance/ Road Segment</b>	<b>Total Number of Commercially Guided Snowmobile Entrance Passes</b>
(i) YNP – North Entrance	60
(ii) YNP – West Entrance	400
(iii) YNP – South Entrance	220
(iv) YNP – East Entrance	100

- All snowmobile operators must be accompanied by a commercial guide authorized under a concessions contract.
- Guided parties may not travel in groups of more than 11 snowmobiles, including the guide's snowmobile.
- Snowcoaches and snowmobiles may not be operated in the park between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. except by authorization.
- Idling a snowmobile or snowcoach is limited to 5 minutes at any one time
- The towing of persons on skis, sleds or other sliding devices by oversnow vehicles, except in emergency situations is prohibited.
- Snowmobiles or snowcoaches that stop on designated routes must pull over to the far right next to the snow berm. Stopping the vehicle in a hazardous location, or where the view of the vehicle might be obscured, such as on a curve, is prohibited. Pullouts must be utilized when available and accessible.

R. Okerman 2-11-04  
 Recommended by: Chief Ranger Date

Suzanne Lewis 2-11-04  
 Approved by: Superintendent Date

RESCINDED

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 Superintendent Date